GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4456
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2000
POLLUTED TOXINS
CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Highways No. 24 connects the capital with Lucknow and passes through Gajraula, among other towns;

(b) if so, many commuters are exposed to high level of toxic odours emanating from a chemical factory called vam organics, on this route;

(c) the level of pollutants and toxic gases released by the said unit in the environment; and

(d) the remedial steps being taken by the Government in this direction?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b)&(c)M/s Vam Organic Chemicals Ltd (VOCL) manufactures industrial grade alcohol and also produces a number of organic chemicals using alcohol as the raw material. The chemical plants of VOCL generate odour causing gases during the various processes and operations. The ambient levels of sulphur dioxide, oxides of nitrogen, flouride and suspended particulate matter are ranging from 2.5 to 73.6 microgram per cubic meter (ug/m3), 1 to 7.3 ug/m3, 0.33 to 7.5 ug/m3 and 151 to 412 ug/m3 respectively.

(d) The Government issued directions under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to VOCL and pursuant to the directions, the industry has taken following steps:-

- Restricting the production of alcohol to 260 kilo litre per day to match the capacity of existing treatment plant;

- Desludging the river Bagad for reducing colour and odour problem;

- Installation of a plant to recover sulphur from bio-gas; and

- Installation of facilities for collection and incineration of odourous volatile organic gases and vapours.